

DEFENSE BROKEN IN FINAL LUNGES AT LINE OF MEUSE

Terrible Price Exacted in 27
Days of Fighting Up to
November 1

GREAT PROGRESS AT FINISH

Pre-Armistice Attack Saw American
Armies Push Through Last
Obstacles to Complete Victory

The results of the bitter and uninterrupted fighting of the 27 days between October 4 and November 1 on the American front were of the highest value, as the sequel showed, but they had also been terribly costly. To an army depleted in reserves of men or material the cost, indeed, might well have proved so great that the offensive would have had to come to a halt short of complete and final success.

In fact, by exacting the utmost effort from their adversaries for every meter of ground gained, the Germans were undoubtedly striving to bring about this result in their undeniably magnificent defense during the period mentioned, for, with greatly inferior numbers, their hope was to exhaust the forces of the Allies.

During the whole period, however, and in every theater of war, events had been going against them with disastrous rapidity. Continuing his superb maneuvering of masses in a ceaseless succession of blows, Marshal Poch on October 8 directed a freshly co-ordinated effort on the part of the British armies between Cambrai and St. Quentin and the French armies south of them, and these forces pushed eastward through the enemy's defensive lines with a rapidity which was accelerated on October 14, when the Army Group of the King of the Belgians took up the offensive in Flanders.

On the 17th, General Birdwood's Fifth British Army captured Lille, thus destroying the great holding point of the whole German front in the direction of the sea, and before the end of the month the Belgian coast and all the part of that country west of the Scheldt was released, while further south, in France, all of the first and most of the second German defense systems had fallen and the enemy was in retirement toward the line of the Meuse. Tens of thousands of prisoners and irreplaceable quantities of material had come into the hands of the Allies during the course of the fighting.

Turkey and Austria Out

In more distant fields, Turkey surrendered on October 31, and at the same time the mighty Austrian armies, attacked on the Piave and the Trentino on the 24th and broken on the 25th by inferior numbers of Italians, were melting down in the swift and most overwhelming collapse which has ever befallen the military power of a nation.

On the important section of the front between Metz and Reims, the American and the Fourth French Armies were operating, the situation on November 1, in relation to the enemy's defensive lines, was about as it was further west and north, except that, lying across the line, the hold of the Krimmling Stellung, which was still unbroken in many places, the Allied armies there were much closer than elsewhere to the German front line, and they were, through Metz, Metzereis and Valenciennes.

The constantly increasing American forces had been divided on October 10 into two armies—the First, which retained the front between the Meuse and the Argonne, and the Second, which was given to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 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